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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

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IT'S NOT JUST TRUMP

IT'S CAPITALISM

Although U.S. finance capital didn't back Donald Trump's surprising path to the presidency, he will nonetheless represent the interests of the finance capitalist section of the ruling class. "Fascism represents the policy of large-scale capital, and not the revolt of petty bourgeois policies against large-scale capital," says R. Palme Dutt, the early 20th-century British communist leader and author of Fascism and Social Revolution. Based on the people he's appointed to cabinet-level positions and others under consideration, Trump could represent an opportunity to unify the rulers' dominant section with the wing represented by more domestically oriented capitalists, like Charles and David Koch.

While still on top of the dunghill of global capitalism, the U.S. is in significant decline. It faces intensifying competition from two rising capitalist powers, China and Russia. The U.S. bosses' only chance to stave off their rivals—at least for a while longer—is to impose fascism at home. They need to intimidate, divide, and nationalize the working class to fight in the next broad global conflict. From this point forward, every U.S. president will play his or her part in building a mass fascist movement. Progressive Labor Party cannot stop this trend; it is ingrained in the contradictions of the profit system. But communists have a vital role to play in this volatile period. Our job is to organize the international working class to defend itself and fight back. Our historical task is to turn the guns around and transform imperialist war into a mass revolutionary war for a communist future.

The Next War President

The U.S. military is essential to U.S. capitalist dominance around the world. While Trump may have made isolationist-sounding campaign promises to cancel trade agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or to step back from NATO and give Russia freer rein in Eastern Europe, make no mistake. Trump will be a war president. There is consensus within the ruling class that Russia and China must be militarily confronted, and sooner than later.

The president-elect's campaign rhetoric aside, his first cabinet appointments appear to be in lockstep with the finance capitalists' agenda for imperialist war. Trump's new national security adviser, Michael Flynn, is a retired U.S. Army general who has pushed for more aggressive intervention in the proxy war in Syria. He also co-authored a book titled, The Field of Fight: How We Can Win the Global War Against Radical Islam and Its Allies. A well-vetted servant of U.S. imperialism and a former senior military intelligence officer, Flynn took part in the invasions of Grenada (1983) and Haiti (1994). More recently, he helped engineer the slaughters of civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan to defend main-wing oil interests in the Middle East.

While Trump is as ruthless a capitalist as they come, he has a lot to learn about handling state power on behalf of the arch-imperialists. To that end, he wasted no time in getting briefed on international affairs by arch-imperialist and genocide architect Henry Kissinger. After the meeting, Kissinger told CNN:

> *On should not insist on nailing [Trump] into positions that he had taken in the campaign. "The art now would be to develop a strategy…that can be linked to some of the main themes of American foreign policy.*

In other words: No Trump policies are solidified, and the main wing can align Trump to their imperialist needs.

White Supremacy in the White House

Racism is the backbone of capitalism. Trump's appointment of alt-right (media baron Stephen Bannon as chief White House strategist and senior counselor, along with his nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions as attorney general, reflects an unambiguous commitment to racist terror. We can expect Trump to build on the legacy of State-Terrorists-in-Chief Barack Obama (who deported a record 2.5 million immigrants) and George W. Bush before him.

> *"Over the last 16 years, the federal government has used local police and jails as a key tool to orchestrate mass deportations – and that's precisely what Trump plans to do on a more frightening scale than ever" (the Guardijjjan.com, 11/21).*

Sessions is an open racist. In 1986, he was denied a federal judgeship after a Senate committee learned that he'd called the NAACP "un-American" and "communist-inspired" and "had accused a white attorney who supported voting rights of being a race traitor" (New York Times, 11/21). As Alabama's attorney general in the 1990s, Sessions blocked reforms to provide basic services to underfunded, segregated public schools (NYT, 11/21).

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Mass Protests After Election

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OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

★ the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Trump & Co., A War Presidency

> "…Fascism represents the desperate attempt of the doomed capitalist class to maintain its power and overcome the contradictions by extreme violent means, and thus to maintain the existing social forms at the expense of the development of the forces of production, in particular:
>
> (1) to throttle the class struggle by suppression of all working class organizations;
>
> (2) to overcome the economic contradictions by active state intervention, so-called "planning", subsidies, restrictions of production and trade, etc.; (
>
> **3) to overcome the inner contradictions of the bourgeoisie by the unification of a single governmental party replacing the older political parties and divisions;**
>
> **(4) to overcome the international contradictions by intensified organization for war and world conquest."**
>
> – R. P. Dutt, *The Question of Fascism and Capitalist Decay*

Continued from page 1

Under Obama, liberal attorney generals Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch have done nothing to stem the rising tide of racist police murders across the country. In Chicago, the U.S. Department of Justice acknowledged that "...police have no regard for the sanctity of life when it comes to people of color" (Washington Post, 4/16). The DOJ then proceeded to give the Chicago Police Department $2 million for "overtime and upgraded equipment" (ABC 7, 9/9). We can expect more of the same from Sessions.

Bannon is an ex-Goldman Sachs banker and, until recently, the executive chairman of the white supremacist website Breitbart News. As Mother Jones (8/22) observed, he is most ominous when it comes to anti-Muslim racism:

> *He describes Islam as "a political ideology" and Sharia law as "like Nazism, fascism, and communism." On his Sirius XM radio show, he heaped praise on Pamela Geller, whose American Freedom Defense Initiative has been labeled an anti-Muslim hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Bannon called her "one of the leading experts in the country, if not the world," on Islam. And he basically endorsed House Speaker Paul Ryan's primary challenger, businessman Paul Nehlen, who floated the idea of deporting all Muslims from the United States.*

Bosses Cracking Down on Bosses

Despite their internal divisions, the ruling class and their politician servants are aligning to shore up their decadent system. One hallmark of rising fascism is stricter discipline within the ruling class, which must sacrifice some short-term profits to finance an imperialist military and critical domestic infrastructure. "Trump wants an active-duty Army with another 60,000 soldiers in the ranks, an unspecified number of additional sailors to man the 78 ships and submarines he intends to see built in coming years. He wants up to 12,000 more Marines to serve in infantry and tank battalions, and at least another 100 combat aircraft for the Air Force" (Military Times, 11/20).

Liberals like Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, longtime champions of higher corporate taxes, have already expressed their willingness to cooperate with Trump in this effort. Politicians may be Democrats or Republicans, "progressives" or conservatives; they may have tactical or even strategic disagreements. But they are all enemies of the working class. As the U.S. moves closer to full-blown fascism, they will fall in line to support the profit system's long-term needs. If ruling-class history is any guide (see: German in the 1930s), any holdouts will be eliminated.

It's too early to assess Trump's impact on the splits that plague the unstable U.S. ruling class. But it should be noted that he has nominated Kansas Congressman Mike Pompeo as the next director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Since the days of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, the U.S. rulers have entrusted this job to reliable main-wing insiders, from Allen Dulles to George H.W. Bush to David Petraeus. As The Nation (11/18) noted, Pompeo marks a clear departure from tradition:

Pompeo came out of the same Wichita, Kansas, business community where the Koch family's oil-and-gas conglomerate is headquartered. Indeed, Pompeo built his own company with seed money from Koch Venture Capital. More important, from a political standpoint, is the fact that Pompeo made the leap from business to government with a big boost from the Koch brothers and their employees. "I'm sure he would vigorously dispute this, but it's hard not to characterize him as the congressman from Koch," says University of Kansas political science professor Burdett Loomis.

Workers Fight Back!

Workers are not taking the rulers' attacks lying down. Since Trump's election, hundreds of marches and demonstrations have erupted all over the country. Black workers are mobilizing against police terror in dozens of cities. Movements like Black Lives Matter, #NoDAPL, and Not My President are severely limited by their reformist nature, opportunistic leadership, and/or bankrupt identity politics. At the same time, they show that workers are ready to fight and resist the drive to fascism and imperialist war. Internationally, from Haiti to Pakistan, in countries where fascism is most advanced, workers are locked in open class struggle against the bosses.

These fightbacks are inspiring to the workers of the world. Ultimately, however, they will fall short without leadership from a serious, disciplined, mass communist organization. History has taught us that only communism can defeat fascism. The Soviet Army smashed the Nazis during World War II. The Chinese Communist Party led peasants, students, soldiers, and workers to victory over Japanese fascism, liberating the planet's most populous country from the capitalist class. With the leadership of Progressive Labor Party, we can do it again! Join us!✪

Antiracists Confront White Supremacist Conference

Bloodied Nazi

WASHINGTON, DC, November 19—Over 500 antiracists protested outside a conference of the racist National Policy Institute (NPI). These NPI scum are often called coat-and-tie white supremacists. During this years' conference these Nazis got several tastes of militant, antiracist action. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) also took a small step forward in building a movement for communist revolution.

The NPI are hard core supporters of eugenics, the idea that races are biologically different, and that whites are simply "better stock" than others, who they call the "mud people". The NPI was celebrating the election of Donald Trump, their partner in advancing racism, and were making plans to further a "white nation."

No Food for Racists

The antiracists from Smash Racism DC were having none of this. The day before, the antiracists had succeeded in forcing the Hamilton Restaurant to cancel the NPI's annual dinner. The NPI then moved their dinner to Maggiano's Restaurant, at which point antiracists stormed the restaurant, disrupting the dinner and spraying a foul-smelling liquid on Richard Spencer, NPI president, who was trying to mock the protesters. After leaving the restaurant shortly before the cops arrived, the demonstrators picketed outside the restaurant, which was forced to close its doors to new diners.

Though small crowds have picketed this annual conference in DC in the past, this year's rally was more mass and militant. Fittingly, these NPI racists were meeting in the Ronald Reagan building. Even though a huge police presence prevented the demonstrators from shutting down the conference, we were able to shut down several NPI members. They were booed when they came out and tried to mock the demonstrators. One racist's face was bloodied.

At the rally a member of the Progressive Labor Party spoke on the need to take this moment of anger at the election of openly racist and sexist Donald Trump and turn it toward a revolutionary movement for communism. We need to abolish the whole damn capitalist system, which uses racism and sexism to maximize profits for the few at the top. (See twitter @PLPchallenge for the speech #StopNPI). Millions of workers abandoned the Democratic Party in this election because it has failed them, and millions more simply stayed home for the same reason. The PLP member warned that the liberal bosses are regrouping with people like Senator Elizabeth Warren to try to funnel the energy of these workers and youth into the Democratic Party and pointless electoral politics. Instead we must boldly put forth and fight for a revolutionary alternative; a multiracial movement of women and men fighting for an egalitarian world.

Today, several of the protesters asked to be contacted by the PLP to learn more about revolution and communism, the real alternatives to electoral politics. We must be deeply engaged in the anti-Trump protests to bring awareness of our revolutionary ideas to thousands more. Join us.✪

Bronx College Students Build Wall Against Racism

THE BRONX, November 17—"This makes me want to get even more involved!

"This felt really good!"

"For the first time in a long time, I don't feel trapped!"

So spoke three college students in the Bronx after two weeks of antiracist organizing on their campus. This included a mini-walkout, forums, film showings, protests and study groups.

Members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party are playing a leading role in this growing fight back! We are discussing revolution and communism with our friends, old and new. The idea is catching on that "It's not just Trump, it's capitalism!"

Wall Against Racism

The day after the elections, hundreds of students attended Social Justice forums on campus and pledged to get involved in campus fight backs. A few days later, a dozen students walked out of one class with their professor chanting, "Racism means we have to fight back!" and held a rally near the cafeteria. Two days later, more than 50 students organized a "wall against racism" and rallied and chanted in front of the school. Speeches were given about the need to fight racism worldwide and the need to have multiracial unity.

Many are seeing the outcome of the Trump election as their signal to get politically involved. On our campuses, the issue of the possible deportation of undocumented students and workers and the racist harassment of Black, Latin, and Muslim students has been front and center. At the same time, many students are realizing that the Democrats, with their mass deportations and mass incarceration, are no solution either. The whole damn system has to go.

In the last few weeks, many new students have come forward to give leadership in these events. They have helped to organize protests, they have given speeches, they are discussing how to fight racism and organize for revolution. They are the future leaders leaders of the movement we are building for a better world!✪

Working-Class Exploitation to Win Ruling-Class Wars

Throughout its history, the U.S. Military has used racism and sexism to divide and manipulate the working class in an effort to build a military to fight their wars.

Not Recognized By Name

During the American Revolutionary War, the typical Black soldier was a private, often lacking a name or official identity. He was carried on the rolls as *A Negro man*, or *Negro by name*, or *A Negro name not Known*.

Three-Fifths A Human Being: All Parts Soldier

By the end of the American Revolution, over 300,000 men would fight, including approximately 5,000 who were Black. However, the new U.S. Constitution re-emphasized Black inferiority by deeming that, for political representation, each enslaved Black person would only count as three-fifths of a human.

American Weapons not American Citizens

Although they were still not considered American citizens, more than 17,000 indigenous workers fought in WWI (1914—1918). They would, however, not receive any veteran benefits until 1924, when they were declared citizens, yet racism and exploitation were still commonplace in the military.

Denied Human Rights But Forced to Fight

During the Civil War, Black slaves substituted for White masters who chose not to fight. Pressured by Congress to increase enlistment, some states compensated slave owners up to 120 pounds for slaves who served.

Returned to Chains After Combat

After fighting in the War of 1812, Black soldiers were returned to their owners once the war ended and re-enslaved, through the Treaty of Ghent which provided for the mutual restoration of properties, including slaves.

Jim Crow On The Ground & In Flight

During WWII (1940 – 1952), the Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Military was still racially segregated and Black soldiers were subjected to racism both within and outside the Army. In Southern States Black soldiers were also was still subject to Jim Crow laws.

Defending Murder: Houston Rebellion 1917

When the 24th Infantry, with all Black members, arrived in Houston, the segregated Texas City responded by enforcing Jim Crow laws and enlisting city police to harass them. On August 23, two cops beat and murdered a member of the infantry. In response, the infantry organized the Houston Rebellion. In November, the largest court-martial in U.S. military history convened to try 67 soldiers from the rebellion. Thirteen were executed, and 47 others received life sentences.

Mass Rape Goes Unreported and Repressed

On the Lackland Air Force Base in Texas at least 43 female trainees who went through boot camp from 2009 to 2011 reported being sexually assaulted or raped by 17 male instructors. Service members who report a sexual assault were 12 times more likely to experience some kind of retaliation than they are to see an attacker convicted.

Turning a Blind Eye to Racist Activities

In 1986, Marine and Army troops based at Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg in North Caroline took part in Neo-Nazi and White supremacist activities led by the White Patriot Party and KKK to which Army spokespeople responded, "We cannot restrict their freedom of expression, in as much as it does not interfere with their military duty, or violate civilian or military lay" (NYT, 1986).

Scapegoating on U.S. and E.U. Soil

During WWII almost four times as many Black soldiers as whites were executed in Europe after military courts-martial, despite the fact that Blacks made up less than 10 percent of troops (NYT, 2013).

Sexual Assault: Unprecedented and Unreported

A 2012 Pentagon survey found that approximately 26,000 women and men were sexually assaulted. Of those, only 3,374 cases were reported. In 2013, a new Pentagon report found that 5,061 troops reported cases of assault.

Breeding Grounds for Racism

In 2012 Reuters reported that Neo-Nazi and Skinhead groups were encouraging followers to enlist in the U.S. Army and Marine Corps to acquire military skills. A 2005 Department of Defense report states, "Effectively, the military has a "don't ask, don't tell" policy pertaining to extremism.

Anti-Trump Protest Open to Communism

NEW YORK CITY, November 12—A multiracial, multi-generational group of members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) marched with anti-Trump protesters in New York City. The marchers were enthusiastic, some were angry. They listened to our message that only communism can solve the problems of the international working class (see photo, page 7).

A very diverse crowd of over ten thousand marched the two miles from Union Square to Trump Towers. There was no real leadership of the march. With our bullhorn and communist politics we stepped up. We led chants; we gave speeches. Many people picked up our chants like "It's not just Trump, it's capitalism!" There was also plenty of reformism, such as "Love Trump's Hate,""Not my President," and even some Clinton supporters. But many people were open to our revolutionary communist ideas. CHALLENGE newspapers and many anti-capitalist stickers were distributed. As is often the case, we ran out of literature too quickly.

We met lots of good people who marched with our group through the streets of Manhattan. They have joined in the protests against Trump because they believe that people need to stand up for each other against the racist, sexist, homophobic garbage that Trump promotes. In the future we need to get our unions, churches, and community groups to also organize for these protests. But it's not just the racist, sexist filth that comes out of Trump's mouth. It's a capitalist system that exploits and murders through imperialist wars, racist unemployment, poverty, homelessness and on and on. The whole damn system has got to go!

While by Trump Towers, a young comrade gave a rousing speech explaining that Trump is part of the ruling class whose job it is to exploit workers and the only way to defeat Trump and the other racists is with multi racial unity, specifically, to build a revolutionary, communist movement to overthrow capitalism. He directly called out nationalism, feminism, identity politics, and Black Lives Matter (BLM) as bosses' ideas that divide workers more than unify them. Our comrade got a great response from the crowd, but not such a great response from a BLM organizer. After a brief back and forth, it was clear that most people wanted multiracial unity.

The bosses media and academics would divide us into small groups by ethnicity, or gender, or sexual orientation, or so-called race. They would also like us to rely on the Internet for our organizing. The BLM organizer thought that the thousands of people marched in the streets because he had created a Facebook event. He didn't realize that changing the world and getting people to take the streets for real change takes a lot more than what Facebook can do. We in the Progressive Labor Party are committed to the long, difficult, messy work of building a base in the working class. Only a united working class can organize a world without racism and sexism; a world where the wealth is shared by all. Join us to smash capitalism and the system's racist, sexist garbage once and for all.✪

LA: Mass Protests After Trump's Win

Los Angeles, November 9—Donald Trump won the presidential election and the working class took to the streets! A multiracial group of angry workers and youth could not believe how such a racist and sexist could represent them. The Progressive Labor Party contingent was small but spirited because we've been out in the streets before. Under President Obama we've seen the ongoing murders of Black and Latin men and women by the police, the deportation of immigrant workers, and the Syrian refugee crisis.We have fought for immigrants' rights, against racist police violence and against sexist wage theft. We've been inspired by the many struggles of workers all over the world.

Adding Politics to Chants

Most of the chants were anti-Trump like "Not My President." But some PLP chants caught the workers' attention: "La Policia, La Migra, La Misma Porqueria" [The police and the border patrol are the same filth]. "The Workers United Will Never Be Defeated" was another great chant. Our group mostly chanted in Spanish and English. This was a great opportunity to get our members and friends out. Some had contacted us about our plans to protest. Members of our church, classmates and coworkers were out there but the march was so big, it was difficult to find them.

Trump Reflects Capitalism in Decay

This election shows capitalism in decay and rising fascism. No matter who is in office we must continue to fight back against the bosses. Democrat, Republican; they are all the same. Trump ran on the promise to deport more immigrants, build a wall along the Mexican border and round up the Muslim working class, but Obama has helped create the foundation that would allow these policies to be implemented.

This march and the marches that followed showed that there are workers out there willing to stand up and oppose Trump and not take a "wait and see" approach. But "It's not just Trump, it's capitalism." The only way to defeat racism, sexism and fascism, once and for all, is with communist revolution. For that to happen all workers need to become organizers and join the fight back against the terror capitalism brings. Let's fight together to build a better future, because an injury to one is an injury to all!✪

Annual Dinner Builds Solidarity vs. Anti-Muslim Racism

BROOKLYN, November 12—In the face of rising anti-Muslim racism stirred up by president-elect Trump, members of Progressive Labor Party and others in our local Unitarian church organized an even bigger annual interfaith dinner this year. Over 100 people of all ages gathered at our Unitarian church for our 16th annual dinner with Muslim workers and their families! After the September 11 terrorist attacks, we made a concerted effort to reach out to our Muslim working-class sisters and brothers to build solidarity against anti-Muslim racism. Over the years, we have built a thriving relationship that has enriched the lives of all. We are one step closer to building class-consciousness, one step closer to communism.

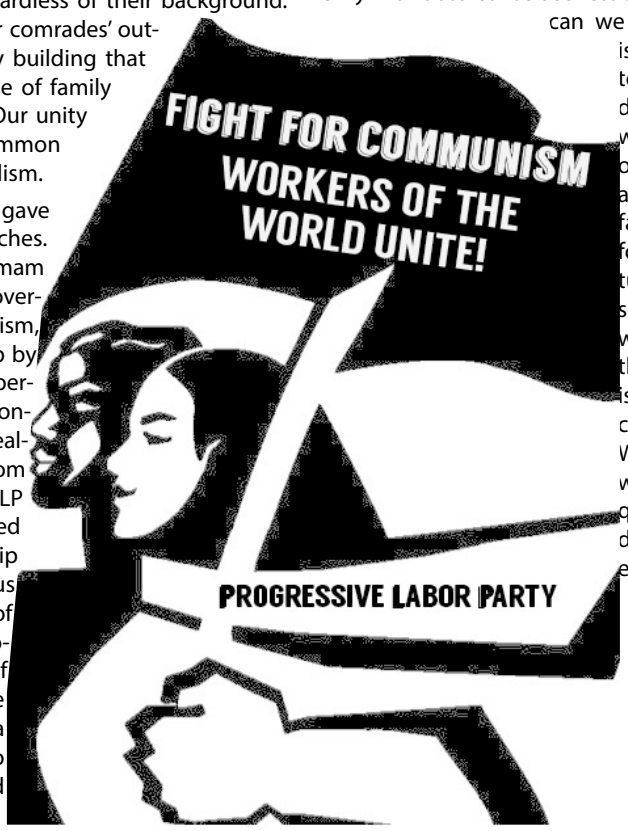
Cultivating Multiracial Unity

What began as a divided room 16 years ago has blossomed into a working-class family. More members of the Unitarian church participate now, and the dinner is an even mix of Muslim and Unitarian workers. We no longer have to encourage people to sit at a table with folks they don't know. People socialize naturally regardless of their background. It's a testament to our comrades' outreach and community building that has fostered this sense of family and mutual respect. Our unity is based on our common struggle to end capitalism.

Many attendees gave captivating speeches. A Black Muslim imam stressed the need to overcome the racism, sexism, and division stirred up by the election. A spokesperson from the church conveyed a prayer of healing and solidarity from our minister. One PLP member who helped foster the relationship between the religious organizations spoke of the need to fight together in the face of rising fascism. These words prompted a church member to spontaneously stand up and talk about protecting and standing up for anyone who is being bullied or harassed.

The final speaker, a Muslim woman involved in many community organizations, emphasized that hate crimes are on the rise in New York. A racist letter was distributed in an apartment building in Queens saying that it is a Trump building and non-white person was not welcome. She stressed the importance of Muslim workers uniting with other antiracists to fight anti-Muslim racism and sexism being espoused by those emboldened by the election.

The election of Donald Trump has shown that capitalism is in crisis and open racism is increasing as a result. However, antiracist workers are emboldened, too. Mass marches all over the country show that millions of workers will stand up against racism. Marches show that we have the capability to fight this racist system, and dinners like these show the potential for a new communist one. In these volatile times, it is more important than ever to unite under one flag, the red flag of communism and PLP. Only with class-consciousness and multiracial unity can we defeat the capitalist bosses looking to divide us. This dinner showed that with workers looking out for one another, anyone could be a family. There is hope for a brighter future. We are already seeing glimmers of what could be! Join the fight against racism and the fight for communism now! We strive to build a world without inequality, religion, borders, and capitalist exploitation.✪



Workers Shut Down Mine After Mother Killed by Dump Truck

COLOMBIA, November 23—On the border south of Bogota between Ciudad Bolivar and Soacha, is reputedly the largest open air mine in Latin America.

This exploitative project uses heavy machinery to extract minerals as it contaminates the air, water, and nearby streets that are the principal access to a neighborhood. They are ruined by dump trucks laden with 35 or 40 tons and racing faster than the speed limit, putting the lives of workers in the nearby neighborhood at risk as they come and go from their homes, jobs, and schools.

The neighborhood itself was only given services after mass struggles that forced authorities to begin providing regular water, electricity, telephone, sanitation, education and health services. PLP has been involved in these constant worker led struggles for many years. We have participated and tried to spread our political ideas, raising consciousness of the need to achieve the victory of the working class through a dictatorship of the proletariat and communism.

For these reasons, when a mother was recently killed by one of these dump trucks—and several of her children injured—workers decided to block access to the mine. Tents were erected and workers assigned turns to guard the blocked entrances to the mine day and night. PL members and five of our friends and sympathizers participated in the guard duty and brought our revolutionary communist line through conversations and actions, and bread and coffee. There was much agreement with our ideas, and we distributed Challenge to 6 regular readers.

Build a Base in the Working Class

During the month, PLP members stressed how the legal and illegal mining are hazardous to the working class because it is not natural and because it is done under the capitalist law of maximizing profit. Imperialism and wage slavery divides us and only provides war, fascism, poverty, illness, hunger, and environmental destruction. After this time of struggle and intense debate, the mine was closed.

Little victories like this show what strength workers have in unity when we defend our interests. Maybe these little advances will lead the way to ridding ourselves of the dictatorship of capital that has pillaged natural resources for 500 years. Its imperialist wars show how the system is tortured by its own internal contradictions. The advance of the class struggle makes it necessary for us to develop a massive Red Army under the leadership of PLP, the only international party of the masses.

The closure of this mine may be only temporary since the ruling class maintains control of the millions of workers through its state power, government, army, schools, police, and culture. While the bosses retain this state power they pass laws that always favor them. Workers need to become the rulers of society and eliminate the bosses' government. This can only happen when revolutionary communists destroy capitalist private property and create a society that benefits all working class people. Join us!✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Demand UN Pay for Causing Cholera in Haiti

Two years ago, friends and members of Progressive Labor Party proposed that the American Public Health Association (APHA) urge the United Nations to

- Take responsibility for bringing Cholera to Haiti and
- Fund a ten-year plan to develop a modern water and sanitation system on the island.

At that time, the UN had not admitted that their troops had carried cholera to Haiti. In fact, the UN bosses were scrambling to hide the fact that fecal waste from cholera-infected UN soldiers had been regularly dumped into the rivers that provided Haiti's water supply. Meanwhile, the UN continued to spend millions of dollars on its occupying military force (MINUSTAH, since 2004) to ensure international capitalist control of the country.

The APHA Governing Council voted down the resolution, refusing to be part of this international antiracist struggle.

Recently, the UN publically admitted their role in causing Cholera in Haiti. We continued the struggle by introducing the resolution this year and it passed as a latebreaker (meaning it will be voted on again next year for final approval). The successful resolution calls on the UN to raise $2.2 billion to fund the 10-year plan for sanitation improvements. This demand is in marked contrast to the UN's offering only $400 million to past victims of cholera.

After Hurricane Matthew, thousands more have died and been plagued with resurgent cholera. It is urgent that the UN provide the funds to prevent more deaths from waterborne diseases. The daily human toll of this disease is magnified by natural disasters and evolving climate change. Cholera is a 19th century disease. It is easily treatable with rehydration therapy. It is a disease of poor sewage system and infrastructure. Under communism, such diseases will be eradicated for good because there will be no such thing as a profit motive overriding the needs and health of the working class.

This resolution is just one piece of ammunition in the battle against the UN to bring decent public health to Haiti to compensate for its atrocity and stonewalling. The resolution can be used by fighters in Haiti and worldwide to pursue these demands. The passing of this resolution shows that communists can change the fighting climate of their organizations, helping workers and youth around them to develop an internationalist reflex, an anti-individualist outlook.

The resolution (LB-16-01 Accountability for the Haitian cholera epidemic) can be found on the APHA website at http://bit.ly/2f54cPS.

★★★★★

Respectability Politics, A Victim-Blaming Campaign

I am a college student and I'm taking a class about the history of racism in the United States. We were discussing the Great Migration, a movement from 1910s-1970s in which millions of Black workers moved from the south to the north in hopes of better job opportunities and less oppressive racism. We were discussing one document produced by the Detroit Urban League, written by rich Black women, aimed to be a survival guide. A couple snippets:

Don't carry on loud conversations or use vulgar or obscene language…in public places. Remember that this hurts us as a race.

Don't think you can hold your job unless you are on time, industrious, efficient, and sober.

Don't make lots of unnecessary noise going to and from baseball games. If the parks are taken away from you it will partly be your own fault.

Reading this open racism was so upsetting! So many of the racist stereotypes exhibited in this document are still around today ("Black people are lazy and loud"). A Black student from my class argued these things were empowering because they help Black people survive in a racist society and eventually to rise to a higher class.

Some initially seemed to agree with him. I was afraid to speak out because I am white and academic culture teaches us that Black people are the only people who can discuss and analyze racism. Finally, I responded that these ideas, also known as "respectability politics" are racist and oppressive. It assumes that the default behavior for Black people is to be loud, disrespectful, late and lazy. Moreover, it tells Black people that the best way to operate within a racist system is to play by the rules and rise above it. However, loudness and hoodies are not reasons to be harassed by kkkops. Selling loose cigarettes is not a reason to be murdered by the police. Plus, there are people who play by all the rules, do everything right, and still can't get out of poverty or escape racism. Respectability politics creates the idea that poor Black workers are only poor because they haven't followed the rules. It is because the system, not bad behavior, that is responsible for racism and poverty.

Instead of playing by the bosses' rules, we need to organize to smash the system. We need to be flooding the streets and fighting back. My school had a walkout against racism following Trump's victory. Hundreds of students, Asian, Latin, Black, and white, all marched together, chanting, "Immigrants are welcome here!" and, "Hey hey, ho ho, this racist system's got to go!"

Some students nodded their heads in agreement to what I said. Then, some students started chiming in and making their own arguments for why those ideas are oppressive. Someone approached me after class and thanked me for speaking up and giving her a new way to think about politics. That gave me confidence; if you speak out against racism, regardless of what you look like or where you come from, people respect you for it and back you up. We have to shut down racist ideas. As I've learned, there are plenty of people who will back us up and fight by our sides!

★★★★★

13TH Discussion: Renders Racism, Lacks Fightback

Twenty-five students attended a screening of the documentary 13TH about the viciously racist injustice system in the U.S. Mostly immigrant, many students learned for the first time viciousness of the racist terror that accompanied the founding of the United States. This racist terror continues today. During the discussion many students seemed awe-struck at the horrors presented. The film is very well made and powerful, but while the profit motive behind the racist prison system is discussed very clearly, the need for a multiracial, militant fight is not. And there is nothing about the historical necessity for communist revolution to destroy the capitalist, profit system. A member of the Progressive Labor Party raised this idea and got several positive responses. The discussion will continue!

glad my comrades in the region struggled with me to do this. My son spoke to me about the difference between this and the PLP conference he attended in the summer. He said that at this conference they were mainly interested in putting a band aid on a broken arm. At the PLP conference, we are more interested in addressing racism in a systematic way. We are developing study groups with our friends from the Unitarian Church and the high school here.

★★★★★

Lynchburg: Destroy Capitalism to Eradicate Race & Racism

There was an advance in bringing revolutionary communist ideas to southern Virginia on November 5. My son, a friend, and I attended the fourth conference on Race, Poverty and Social Justice at Lynchburg College. About 150 people attended the conference. Attendees and speakers were multiracial and focused on reforms. The keynote speaker was a constitutional lawyer who has written about race and discrimination issues.

We tried to move the discussion beyond reform to criticizing capitalism and introducing class analysis. We distributed a leaflet entitled, "The Concept of Race was a Creation by Capitalist Rulers," got out a few copies of CHALLENGE and asked a question at the opening session. The best part was during a breakout session. I pointed out that the eradicating racism is connected to the destruction of capitalism. Afterward two Black women approached me and thanked me for saying in their words "what needed to be said." One expressed she had felt all alone in believing that the economic system is at the heart of the problem. We will stay in touch.

This was my first effort at publically raising these ideas after living in Virginia for over 15 years. It felt great to get started again and draw on my previous training with PLP in New York and I am glad my comrades in the region struggled with me to do this.

My son spoke to me about the difference between this conference and the PLP conference he attended in the summer. PLP is an organization that depends and encourages leadership from the working class. PLP conference presenters are organizers in the battle against racism worldwide and in their particular areas of work: schools, hospitals, military, factories, churches, community organizations, and transportation. Our members participate and evaluate our collective theory and actions. Only in this way can we practice the political leadership necessary to lead us forward and ensure an egalitarian society.

My son said the Lynchburg conference was mainly interested in putting a band-aid on a broken arm. At the PLP conference, we are more serious about in ending the system of racism and capitalism. We are developing study groups with our friends from the Unitarian Church and the high school here.

★★★★★

Mexico Forum: So Glad I Came

I am a first-year student and I recently attended a PLP forum about the teacher struggle in Mexico. It was great to learn about organizing strategies and actions from our comrades in Oaxaca, Chiapas and Mexico City. The importance of educators in the class struggle is tremendous as they can instill the drive for liberation into younger generations.

I am so glad I was able to attend the workshop. I am taking to heart the different strategies and rhetoric used in organizing communities and translating it to the communities I'm in.

I am in solidarity with the teachers organizing for the liberation of all workers and look forward to continuing this conversation about organizing, direct action, and making long term positive change.

I like the work that PLP is doing and am looking forward to increasing my involvement in the organization.

★★★★★

APHA

Continued from page 8

Making the resolution permanent APHA policy will be part of our continued efforts next year in Atlanta. Although reforms are limited, passing the resolution against police terror had a mass character and brought us in close contact with many young public health activists. This would not have been possible without parallel activities in the broad anti-racist movement, including the actions and rebellions against racist police murders in Ferguson and Baltimore supported and led by PLP, Black Lives Matter, and the families of victims of police murders. Similarly, within the APHA, the past year's president, a friend of PLP, played a positive role by making anti-racism the centerpiece of APHA activities this year and supporting the resolution against police violence on the floor of the convention.

On to Next Year

"Health equity" was the theme of the convention, but only the unflagging, consistent work of the Party and friends clarified the role of racism in the struggle. Look forward to next year in Atlanta, when the theme will be climate change. We welcome you to join us in the struggle to eradicate racism, end capitalism, climate change, and realize a communist world.✪

College Forum Exposes Republicrats, Capitalist Gov't

HARLEM, November 5—Just days shy of the ruling classes over-hyped elections; a group of 40 multiracial students, educators, and workers congregated at Columbia University for an election forum geared towards educating students and workers on the futility and deception of elections, as well as on the necessity of militant fight back as the gateway for true and lasting social change.

The forum which was organized by PLP's college leadership committee was led by a trio of young communist leaders. The forum began with a female comrade delivering a skillful attack on the dangers of the lesser-evil stance, and demonstrated that Democrats and Republicans are just different sides of the same coin. She exposed the popular sentiment shared by many members of the working class that one should vote for the well-groomed and polished covert racist murderer Hillary Clinton in order to avert the more cantankerous racist and fascist Donald Trump.

After that the second panelist, another female comrade, unmasked the true purpose of elections, and shared how they are used not just a tool to mislead the working class, but also how it helps them protect the profit system-by allowing the bosses to discipline, and settle disputes within their own class.

This discussion was then concluded by a young male comrade, who gave an inspirational speech on how change has been possible without voting, and took us on a journey through the history of our class, and how these heroes risked their lives and fought valiantly for the 8 hour workday, sick days, and many of the protections we have today.

Sham Democracy

The panel discussion was supplemented by cool memes and quotes from Marx and other crusaders for workers rights like Emma Goldman and Lucy Parsons. After the panelists wrapped up the panel discussion they opened up the floor for discussion and asked questions which received many insightful responses. When the question about whether there is a lesser of two evils was asked; a sharp young student in the crowd gave a poignant response by arguing that people are quick to call-out Trump's flagrant racism, and call Hillary the lesser evil, and overlook Hillary Clinton's egregious track record as senator, and that Hillary is the greatest evil of the two since she has the body-count to back it up.

Post-election protest in NYC. See page 4

Shortly after a participant challenged us by asking whether the lesser evil question would even be up for discussion if Bernie Sanders were running. One panelist quickly rose to the challenge and pointed out that Sanders is a sheep in wolf's clothing, and that he and Hillary are barely indistinguishable in their support for the Iraq War and have supported Israel's slaughter of Palestinians. Moreover, he pointed out that while Sanders seems radical in the U.S in Europe he would've been another democratic socialist candidate, pointing out some of the vicious policies carried out by Democratic Socialists like Tony Blair, and Francois Hollande.

The forum was successful in attacking the electoral system as a capitalist apparatus. Yet, as we look forward, post-election to Trump's victory, many members of the working class decry the destruction of a democracy that never existed. While many suggest that the Electoral College must be reformed, or that we should take money out of politics, we know that the truth has never been so clear; the ballot offers us no viable options, nor a future, and we cannot work to reform something that has become so entrenched in the state apparatus. It's not elections; it's the whole damn system. The heroism of our class has proven that the bosses fear the working class, and they try to kill our revolutionary spirit with their stupid ballot boxes. The revolutionary spirit and anger that has erupted as a result of Trump being elected could not be a more fitting response. Now it is our job as a party to channel this rage into a fight for communism.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

U.S. war crimes in Afghanistan

NYT, 11/15 — The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said….there was a "reasonable basis" for her to open investigations into "war crimes of torture and related ill treatment by U.S. military forces deployed to Afghanistan and in secret detention facilities operated by the Central Intelligence Agency…."

The investigation could also set up a potential showdown with President-elect Donald Trump who has said he supports torture….

The prosecutor's report said that American soldiers and C.I.A. officials had…"resorted to…the commission of the war crimes of torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity and rape."

China: Walmart strikes spread nationwide

NYT, 11/17 — …A laid-off Walmart employee named Wang Shishu….56, has helped organize a national movement in China against Walmart. Labor strikes have hit stores in the south simultaneously. There have been boycotts in the northeast. And here in Shenzhen,… Walmart…employees have filed a lawsuit demanding back pay….

…Strikes and labor protests have broken out across the country….The government has responded aggressively, detaining activists and increasing censorship to keep unrest from spreading….

Across China, Walmart employees have raised their fists at protests, chanting, "Workers, stand up!"….They have posted screeds online against…bosses and "union puppets."

…Beijing has sought to prevent the emergence of a nationwide labor movement, suppressing efforts by workers to organize across industries or localities….

…Walmart…workers have complained of low wages and a new scheduling system they say has left them poorer and exhausted.

…As many as 20,000 people, about a fifth of the company's work force in China, have joined messaging groups set up by Mr. Wang….They vent about company policies, share protest slogans and discuss plans to coordinate demonstrations for maximum effect….

…A labor scholar at Cornell University said the Walmart movement was "probably the most substantial example of sustained cross-workplace, independent worker organizing we've ever seen in China's private sector….

…Workers at Neutrogena stores and China Unicom, a state-owned telecom operator, have used similar tactics….

From July through September, there were 124 strikes and protests at service-sector firms, about double the number last year….

Chinese…labor unions…are almost always controlled by management, and companies generally use the unions to contain worker activism….

…A new scheduling system that Walmart put in place…has resulted in cuts to overtime pay and excessively long shifts….

Zhai…said she was fired…after leading a fight against the new scheduling system.

"I told them, 'Even if you put a knife to my neck, I'll never agree…."

…Employees say a Walmart job does not pay enough to comfortably support a family, with wages hovering around minimum wage, or about $300 a month.

CPD torture innocent Black men

NYT, 10/31 — Chicago Torture Archive…includes testimony and documents from criminal trials and civil rights cases…which represents numerous survivors of police torture….The Chicago Police Department's infamous torture crew rounded up more than 100 African-American men who were shocked with cattle prods, beaten with telephone books and suffocated with plastic bags until many confessed to crimes.

The materials…contain nightmarish stories, like that of Darrell Cannon. In 1983, three Chicago police officers arrested Mr. Cannon in connection with a murder case, drove him to a desolate area and tortured a confession out of him. Mr. Cannon…refused to confess after officers forced the barrel of a shotgun into his mouth and repeatedly pulled the trigger. He finally gave in…after they shocked his genitals with a cattle prod….

Mr. Cannon served 24 hellish years in prison….But by the time state prosecutors finally dismissed his criminal case, it had become clear that his torture story was no exaggeration and that a cover-up had been undertaken to hide this…police abuse from view.

British racist tests a-bombs on indigenous people

GW, 11/4 — …Yami Lester's…eyes, tilted to the sky, are scrunched shut. Yami Lester…is blind.

Lester was a child when the British tested the atomic bomb near his home in the Australian outback…known as Maralinga….

Lester's family soon fell sick. He lost his sight….

…[In] the infamous 1956 Maralinga tests in South Australia's Great Victoria Desert….Indigenous people were forcibly removed from their lands or, if they stayed, suffered horrific injuries. Service and military personnel working on the sites, too, were exposed to hazardous radiation….

…The physical repercussions of atomic tests (from cancer to deformities to loss of sight)….references a government who willfully ignored repercussions from its actions, shrouded its deeds in secrecy and shied away from responsibility.

APHA: Fighting Racism, A Matter of Public Health

DENVER, COLORADO, November 2—The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) brought the fight against racism and for a communist world to the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA), an organization of public health professionals and policy makers whose mission is to improve public health and achieve equity in health status. We've helped over 300 people think about the relationship between racism and poor public health. Most important, this struggle has translated into bold action. We joined with others in passing important resolutions on police violence and demanding UN financial support for Haiti's cholera epidemic (see letters). PLP is moving the struggle to the left and exposing APHA as an institution that won't fix public health. Only communist revolution can deliver the healthcare that workers need and deserve!

Resolve to End Racist Violence

As the fight against racist police terror has intensified in the U.S. over the past two years, PLP members in APHA have called attention to the serious threat to public health that police terror poses. Last year, PL'ers joined with the Black Caucus of Health Workers at the APHA meeting to present a panel on police violence and public health, the only session at that conference to address this problem. Students from California who were inspired by that discussion joined us in introducing a resolution against police terror this year.

After nearly a year of research, we had a resolution condemning the role of police as racist agents of capitalist social control, complete with 82 references to the academic literature. Among the actions demanded by the resolution were decriminalizing homelessness, loitering, sex work, and drug use; tougher police accountability and demilitarization of police departments; putting money into promoting racial and economic equity; and creating community-based alternatives to policing, including more jobs and restorative justice programming for addressing problems like drug use and prostitution.

As expected, the APHA Joint Policy Committee (JPC) that previews resolutions prior to submission for a vote, gave the paper a negative assessment. Capitalist-supported institutions like the APHA will not oppose racism because they support a system that needs it. However, the crowd refused to accept the racist ruling. The hearing was intense, with dozens of supporters demanding to override the JPC's disapproval.

Beyond Police Reform

The next day, a student co-author of the resolution gave a talk to 300 people called "Beyond Police Reform," demonstrating that police serve the capitalist class and calling for fundamental revolutionary change. "Law enforcement," she argued, "cannot be reformed for the benefit of the working class. Education for the police, body cameras, or tasers aren't answers," she declared; instead, she said that cutting policing and using funding instead for strengthening working class communities was a solution.

Police terror and other aspects of capitalism like unemployment and unsafe housing are the root of workers' poor health. Good public health requires addressing these things. The authors of the resolution insisted, "This is what public health should fight for." However, the JPC deemed this as too impractical and far-reaching, showing that APHA cannot really giving the working class the healthcare it deserves. In fact, capitalism will never be able to eliminate unemployment because it needs to hire and fire workers to deal with periodic crises and keep wages low. The bosses will never give workers safe housing or clean water, as we've seen in Flint, Michigan where they poison the water with lead and in rural working-class white communities where they poison the water with cancerous fracking chemicals. For working people to be healthy, we must eliminate this deadly capitalist system. In fact, the essence of public health must be fighting for a world of equality where all working people will have healthy, productive, and creative lives, the opposite of the exploited lives of workers under capitalism. Communism offers this possibility.

The Struggle Intensifies

We would not let the JPC's negative evaluation slow the momentum we had achieved. PLP prepared and widely distributed a flyer calling for a public rally in support of the resolution. Over 60 public health professionals rallied in front of the convention center, signaling a unique moment in history: the first time that APHA members have publicly protested en masse against a position of the APHA leadership! Militant chants rang out for over an hour, including:

No public health silence in the face of police violence!

Indict, convict, send killer cops to jail, the whole damn system is guilty as hell!

An unusual parliamentary ruckus ensued on the floor of the 300-delegate Governing Council as the resolution was brought forward for a vote. Fearful that the resolution as written would become APHA policy, the leadership suspended the rules and labelled it a "latebreaker" so that it would only be in effect for a year and would come up for reconsideration next year. This is further proof that the APHA is not interested in or capable of creating the necessary changes to fix public health. We can make progress in reform struggles like these, but we can't expect to create permanent solutions without a communist revolution.

The resolution passed in this modified form.

Continued on page 6

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